Docket No.: 13111-00001-US (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Markus Matuschek et al.

Application No.: U.S. National Stage of

PCT/EP2003/008199

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: PROCESS FOR THE BIOTRANSFORMATION

OF CAROTENOIDS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.